

Tuesday, August 26, 2003

## **Gravina Access office open**

By KDN Staff

Ketchikan's Gravina Access project office will be open part of each week through early October, according to HDR Alaska, the state's lead consultant on the transportation project.

This week, the office at 430 Dock St. will be open from 2 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, said Kristen Maines, a planner with HDR.

A draft Environmental Impact Statement released earlier this month outlined nine options to improve access between Ketchikan and Gravina Island. The preferred option is two high bridges that would connect Ketchikan to Pennock and Gravina Islands.

The study addresses six bridge and three ferry options, plus a no-action alternative.

Maines said a final decision on the project hasn't been made and comments are welcome. "Many people have a misconception that it's a done deal ... but now is really the time we'd like to see people get involved," she said.

The deadline for written comments on the draft EIS is Oct. 6. A public open house will be from 3 to 8 p.m. Sept. 16 at the Cape Fox Lodge. Public hearings are scheduled from 7 to 10 p.m. on Sept. 17 and 18 at the Cape Fox. An open house will be from 5 to 7 p.m. before each hearing. People who principally have an interest in marine navigation issues are encouraged to comment at the Sept. 17 hearing, though any topic can be addressed at either hearing.

More information is available at [www.gravina-access.com](http://www.gravina-access.com).